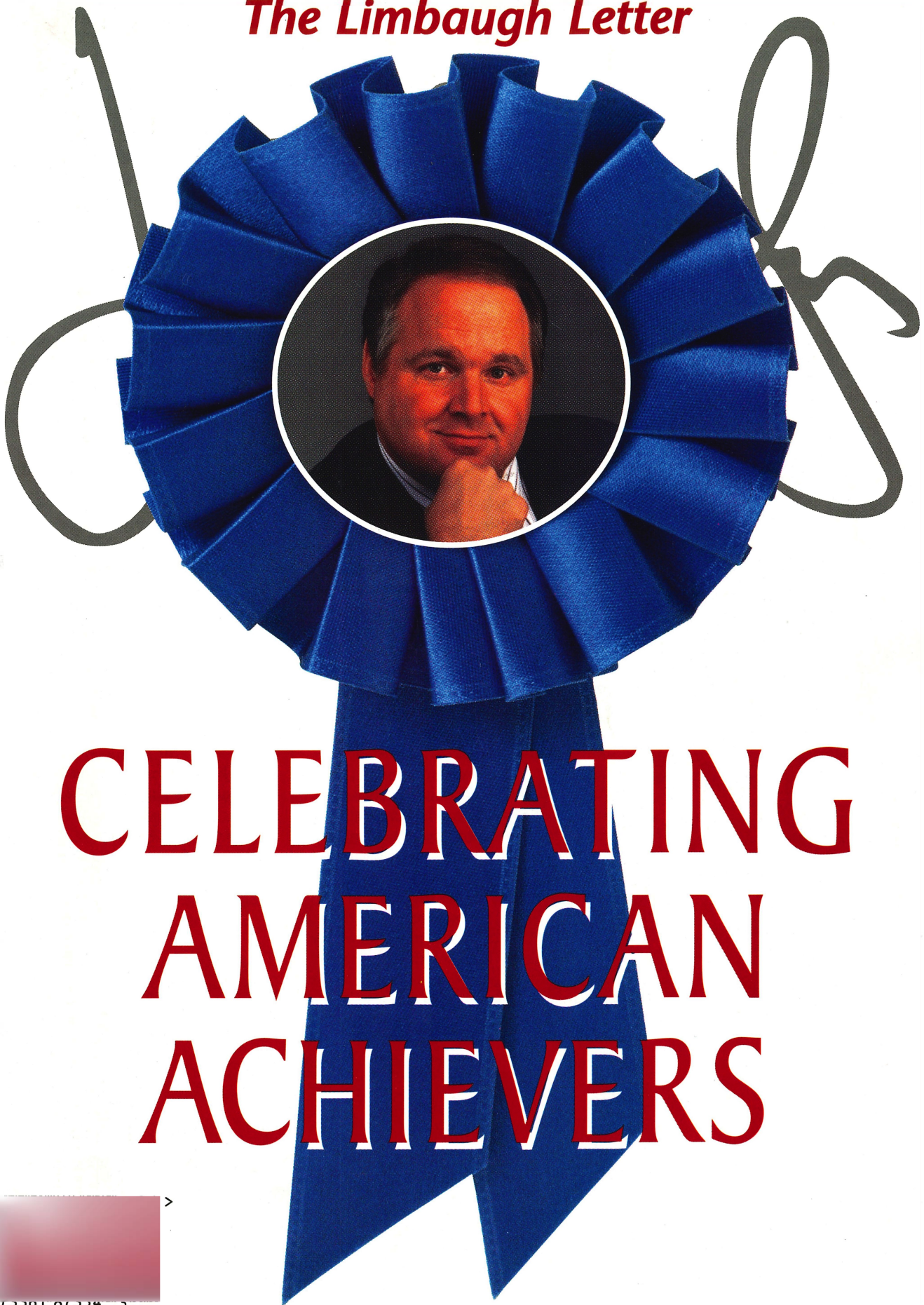


# *The Limbaugh Letter*



CELEBRATING  
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to Preserving  
My Wisdom  
for the Ages**

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# Stupid Quotes

"And is there an American male who has not put on a pair of khakis, a pair of black loafers, white socks, and rolled up his sleeves and looked into the mirror and thought secretly, 'I'm Gene Kelly?'"

— TOM BROKAW, QUOTED IN *INSIGHT*  
*Required show prep, apparently, for anchoring the news on NBC.*

"[I will work to] raise the esteem in which journalists are held by the public."

— MARSHALL LOEB, NEWLY-NAMED EDITOR OF *COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW*, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE INDUSTRY'S "CONSCIENCE," AP

*Good luck. You could try the Gene Kelly angle, though.*

"Ifs and buts with beers and nuts and we could have a heckuva party here, Katie."

— JAMES CARVILLE, WHEN ASKED BY KATIE COURIC IF HE WOULD STOP HIS ANTI-KEN-STARR CAMPAIGN IF CLINTON ASKED HIM TO, ON NBC'S "TODAY"  
*Yes. It's called the Democrats.*

"It's a hoax."

— BILL CLINTON, WHISPERING HOARSELY, AFTER A REPORTER ASKED, "ARE YOU GLAD YOU'VE LOST YOUR VOICE?" DURING PRESS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF JAMES CARVILLE, AP

*Would this surprise anyone?*

"I believe that — let me just say this — I believe that everyone will have to deal with that in his or her own way. But one of the things I would urge you to do, remembering what happened to Mr. Jewell in Atlanta, remembering what has happened to so many of the accusations over the last four years made against me that turned out to be totally baseless, I just think that we ought to make sure we've got — we ought to just get the facts out and they should be reported. That's what I've encouraged everybody to do and that's what we'll do."

— BILL CLINTON, REGARDING STORIES ABOUT JOHN HUANG AND THE LIPPO GROUP, WHEN ASKED BY A REPORTER:

"AREN'T YOU CONCERNED THAT THE IMPRESSION IS GOING TO BE CREATED THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO STONEWALL, THAT YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE?" AP

*One small detail: Mr. Jewell is innocent.*

"The President will answer the questions, and they will evaporate just like everything else has."

— GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, ON ABC'S "GOOD MORNING AMERICA," REUTERS  
*Right. Such as memories ... and subpoenaed documents.*

"I truly don't believe that many cities, including ours, thought about how we were ever going to be able to afford it when the grants ran out."

— SGT. ROBERT HEIMBERGER, ST. LOUIS COORDINATOR FOR FEDERAL GRANTS, ON THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S "100,000 COPS" PROGRAM, QUOTED IN *USA TODAY*

*No kidding, Sherlock.*

"It just felt perfect. What can I tell you? I love New York ... I'm looking forward to the chance to teach, which I've never done before, and to think about what I've learned and hopefully to pass some of it on."

— GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, ON ACCEPTING A POST AS VISITING PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, QUOTED IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
*Let's see ... Stonewalling 101? Advanced Scandal Engineering? Multiple Damage Control Coordination?*

"I have no fear of the independent counsel. That has no play in my decision at all."

— GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, DENYING HE WAS JUMPING SHIP TO AVOID TROUBLE STEMMING FROM INVESTIGATIONS BY KENNETH STARR, ON NBC'S "TODAY," REUTERS

*Good spin. And remember, even spinners can be forgiven.*





"I intend to speak out about welfare reform and write about it ... If there's a formal role that would make sense in terms of reporting to the President ... [to] go out, listen to the people, maybe write him some memoranda ... I want to travel around and have people talk to me about what is happening on the ground as opposed to the abstract transfer of power."

— HILLARY CLINTON, QUOTED IN *TIME* MAGAZINE

*First on the agenda: a secret welfare reform task force?*

"I'm not aware that there is any formal role planned for the First Lady other than she will continue a lifetime of work on behalf of the children of America."

— MIKE MCCURRY, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN, REUTERS

*Translation: put a bag over your head.*

"[The] only way to escape the politics of one's time is to totally withdraw ... and put a bag over your head or somehow to make it clear you have no opinions or ideas on anything, and never to express them publicly or privately."

— HILLARY CLINTON, UPI

*Might work for your next grand jury appearance.*

"The whole point of the Constitution is to limit at some point and in some way popular will."

— ROBERT POST, BERKELEY LAW PROFESSOR, ON THE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER ON PROPOSITION 209 ISSUED BY U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE THELTON HENDERSON, A CARTER APPOINTEE, QUOTED IN *THE LOS ANGELES TIMES*

*No, sir. The whole point of the Constitution is to limit the power of government.*

"We cannot be custodians of our freedom if we are not custodians of our environment. We cannot combat poverty without dealing with the degradation of the environment."

— AL GORE, AT THE HEMISPHERIC SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MEETING WITH 12 LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA, BOLIVIA, AP

*Al Gore, freedom custodian. Or maybe, custodian of cash from crooks.*

"He never wants to be associated with people who break the law."

— LORRAINE VOLES, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SPOKESWOMAN, EXPLAINING THAT GORE WAS "DISAPPOINTED" TO LEARN THAT HIS PICTURE HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH DRUG DEALER JORGE CABRERO AT A FUNDRAISER — WHOSE

GUEST LIST ALSO INCLUDED DR. JOSEPH DOUZE, FUGITIVE; DR. CLAUDE DOUZE, LOAN DEADBEAT; LARRY HAWKINS, HABITUAL SEX HARASSER; JEROME BERLIN, INDICTED AND ACQUITTED ON FEDERAL CONSPIRACY CHARGES OF BRIBING PUBLIC OFFICIALS, ACCORDING TO *THE LOS ANGELES TIMES*

*Too late!*

"My New Year's resolution is to be more accessible, to be more available, to be more proactive, to be less mysterious."

— SEN. CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN (D, IL), TRYING TO REINVENT HERSELF BEFORE SHE FACES RE-ELECTION IN 1998, UPI

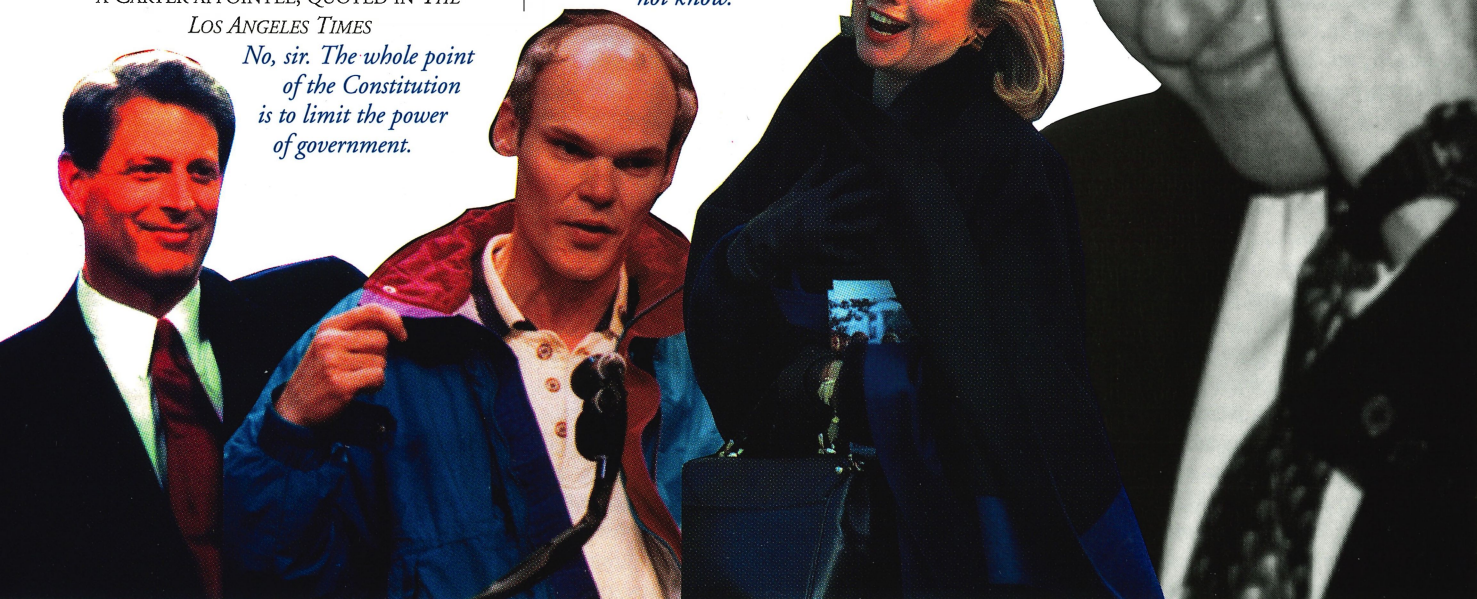
*That's okay. We'd rather not know.*

"I don't want to be like a great gray ape hanging over her."

— REP. PAT SCHROEDER (D, CO), RETIRING, EXPLAINING THAT SHE WAS EAGER TO LEAVE SO HER SUCCESSOR COULD ESTABLISH HER OWN IDENTITY, AP  
*If you want an image to destroy Democratic Party recruitment, this is it.*

"Morale is at an all-time low. It's horrible. The donors have got to be scared to death. It's a big, big problem."

— UNNAMED PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, QUOTED IN *THE HOTLINE*  
*What are they afraid of? That someone will find their rap sheets?*





# Thomas J. Stanley

*I here present the only person I know of who, for 20 years, has actually studied the wealthy. In his new book, **The Millionaire Next Door**, Stanley demolishes every liberal myth about the "eeevil rich."*

**Rush:** What you've done is very courageous, because this country is more and more, in my estimation, becoming a caste system. If you listen to the people who claim to represent the interests of the so-called middle class, and I'm not trying to draw you in politically here, but I'm thinking of people like Dick Gephardt as an illustration. The theory among liberal Democrats is: Once a truck driver, always a truck driver. Once a baker, always a baker. Once a sewer worker, always a sewer worker. Apparently, you're born a company owner and you are born a rich guy. And never do these two groups of people come in contact with one another — except when one oppresses the other.

**Stanley:** That's right!

**Rush:** Your work destroys this myth. Now, the key here is how to get this out with credibility. Why did you tackle this? I mean, this has clearly not made you a whole lot of friends.

**Stanley:** No, Rush, it didn't. But I always wanted to write this book. Because I was once like everybody else. I just assumed people who had money inherited it. I come from a blue-collar background. My grandfather was a civil servant, so was my dad.

They always told me to play it safe. But when I started to interview wealthy people 20 years ago, I was just amazed at how simple and how traditional they were in their orientation. Married to the same woman for a long time. Good values. Didn't throw their money around.

**Rush:** You had to be stunned if you thought most of them inherited it.

**Stanley:** Oh, yes. In fact, in the book, I mention the first time we had a marketing assignment from a big trust department to do focus groups on the wealthy. They said, "We want people with \$10 million and over net worth." So I got a food designer, and a gourmet wine consultant, and a penthouse. The people who showed up drank beer. They were just ten good old boys and first-generation millionaires. Italians, Irish, Russians.

That's what bothers me about the government, Rush, because we've seen studies they've done. The IRS, for example, has studied people and looked at their tax returns while they're alive and then looked at their estate tax returns. The government has the formula. They have better data than we do. They *know* how people become wealthy in America. We quote some of this government information, where they conclude that people who are wealthy are not spenders. They're accumulators.

**Rush:** I find it amazing that there's such a lack of economic understanding in America. I think it's because economic education is so woefully inept. But here's something that will throw most people. According to one of the statistics in your book, the average millionaire has a median household income of \$131,000. Now, stop and think

about this. The average guy reads this and says: "Wait a minute! I thought to be a millionaire you had to earn a million dollars." How do you become a millionaire on a \$131,000 a year? What are some of the consistent traits you found among these hard workers — which right there is probably the No. 1 consistent trait.

**Stanley:** It is. Again, I go back and look at the government and their statistics. I think the government knows very well how people become financially independent, and I think that's the key. First of all, most people

who accumulated wealth in one generation are self-employed. They're very self-reliant; they're able to blend their business investing habits with their own personal investing habits. You mention the \$131,000 figure. The average millionaire in the United States is only realizing about 6 percent of his wealth. If you find somebody, for example, who is worth a million dollars, that means that person is realizing and living on \$60,000 to \$70,000. In addition, 15 percent of that is going into investing. These people are not driving around in a new car every year. In fact, the No. 1 car driven by millionaires is a Ford. Only a small minority, less than 25 percent, are driving this year's car. It's essentially being frugal.

**Rush:** That's unbelievable!

**Stanley:** Once again, Rush, you're talking about the concept people have about wealth. They say, "Well, I can't do it," and the first thing they do is spend their

money. But the fact is that if you keep eating your seeds, you can't grow corn. That's really what it's all about. So these people might be considered "dull normals" in many respects, but at the fundamental character level they are frugal, they're self-employed, they don't throw their money around. And they're being blamed. In other words, they're suspicious, to a lot of people.

**Rush:** They're the targets.

**Stanley:** Absolutely. And the fact is that these people work hard, accumulated the wealth in one generation. This is consistent in all the studies we've done. Eighty percent-plus are first generation rich in America.

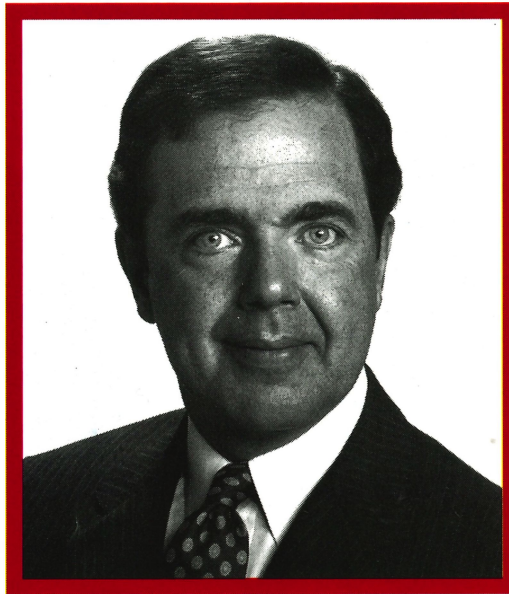
**Rush:** Eighty percent-plus, folks! Read that again!

**Stanley:** And these people are not direct descendants of the Mayflower. In fact, our studies consistently found that the No. 1 country of origin of millionaires — not in total number, but as a probability or proportion — are Russian-Americans. They came here for a good reason; because they got a bad deal in Russia. And the Scots do very well, too. They're number two.

**Rush:** Interesting way to look at it: "a bad deal in Russia."

**Stanley:** Well, they did. In fact, think about the wealth these people have created. They only account for about 1 percent of the population, but 5 or 6 percent of the wealth in America. It goes into the trillions. If Russia had those people, they'd be back in at least the second world.

But the thing that bothers me is how the press and the politicians criticize these people for accumulating wealth. These are people who





are not part of the leisure class. They're working hard.

**Rush:** They're not lounge lizards on Palm Beach, clipping coupons.

**Stanley:** That's right. They're paving contractors. Rice farmers. Scrap metal dealers. They're just hard-working Americans who don't throw their money around. We also looked, Rush — and this is important — at how little they spend on clothing, on cars, and things of this type. If you take the 15 percent of those who inherited wealth out of our survey of millionaires, leaving the 84 to 85 percent first-generation wealthy, and you ask them: "What's the most you ever spent for a suit?", it's about \$360. The same applies to shoes and watches and automobiles. The most the average self-made millionaire ever spent for a car is about \$26,000 or \$27,000.

**Rush:** I've got to interrupt here because a lot of people reading this want to believe you. But these same people drive around their towns, and see huge homes. They see the signs of conspicuous consumption. They don't see people in Ford Fairlanes and conclude they're millionaires. They think that about somebody they see in a Mercedes, or a Porsche. So who are those people?

**Stanley:** We call them "UAWs," or "under-accumulators of wealth." In terms of luxury cars, for every person in the top category of wealth accumulation, there are six of these characters at the bottom who have reasonably high incomes and very low net worth. What they're doing, essentially, is spending tremendous amounts of money on leasing cars, on credit and things of this type, which are the major culprits of not accumulating wealth.

**Rush:** When I lived in Kansas City a long time ago and was earning \$12,000 a year, I could go look across the street at \$500,000 homes. There'd be four automobiles outside these houses. And I was dying to knock on the door and ask, "What do you people do for a living?" I didn't do it, but eventually found out that it's all borrowed money. It's all leveraged. The house is mortgaged to the hilt. The cars are mortgaged to the hilt. If they lost their jobs, they'd lose everything.

**Stanley:** That's right. In fact, we find that these self-made millionaires could survive for ten to fifteen years without earning any income. Their goal is not to cheat other people or to rob from the poor. Their goal is to be financially independent. It's the main reason a lot of people came to this country. They gave up class structure and came here because it gave them a good shot at making a decent living and accumulating wealth. But today you have the press touting people who own swimming pools and big homes and big cars. And that's not necessarily characteristic of the wealthy. Now, some people who have money also spend a lot of money, but most consistently people accumulate wealth — which takes quite a long time. But that's consistent in all the studies we've done, as is how traditional these people are.

**Rush:** I really hope your book has a tremendous impact on bursting some of the stereotypes. Do you expect to be able to put a chink in some of the myths about the rich? If you're able to do that, you will have done a tremendous service, as we re-orient fiscal policy, tax policy, and everything else in this country.

**Stanley:** Well, I hope so, Rush. I go back to that IRS study, which examined these people we're talking about. And they concluded, "Well, it appears that these people are more interested in saving than they are in consuming. That's how they accumulated this wealth." Again, if you're talking about the typical millionaire with \$1 million or \$2 million net worth, according to government statistics — and they have better statis-

tics than we do — they're looking at a 3 to 4 percent return on their money. You're talking about a guy with \$2 million who's realizing only about \$60,000 or \$70,000, and then putting away 15 or 20 percent of that money. That's how you become financially independent.

But these are the people the government would love to get hold of. They want to increase their taxes and do other things to them. In reading some of the government literature we look at it, I wonder if they would love to have a wealth tax. Why don't they just say, "Look, we'll figure out how much you're worth every year, and we'll just take 10 percent of it. We're not going to wait till you realize it."

**Rush:** They've already done that. In Florida, there is a thing called the "asset tax." One percent. They do this in places where there's no state income tax.

**Stanley:** And once they have a system, that's just the beginning. They can't wait.

**Rush:** Absolutely. Your book has as a theme, that I think rings very true — not to draw you into politics here — but it rings true with a conservative belief of mine, and that is: "Hey, I can do it. You can do it, too!"

**Stanley:** I'll agree with that.

**Rush:** It's a road map on how to do it. There are too many people in this country who agree with Dick Gephardt, who think that if they're born a truck driver, that's all they'll be the rest of their lives. They don't realize their own potential. We try to remind them of that every day on the radio program, and your book has documented the facts and figures. When you point out, for example, that millionaires work 45 to 55 hours a week, that they're self-employed, that they're thrifty, and all these things, a lot of people will say, "Hey, I can do that!"

**Stanley:** They certainly can.

**Rush:** Whereas now, they think they can't. They think they've got to have a rich uncle or win the lottery. You say that the IRS and the government knows the formula. I would suspect a lot of people do. Why is it

that there is this lack of desire to teach people in this country how to acquire wealth?

**Stanley:** If you work for the IRS, your job is to bring in the tax. They're going to take as much as they possibly can. We're saying that if you cut back on spending, there's opportunity for you to build wealth. This frightens them because it puts these people in a position of controlling their own destiny. They're not dependent on other people. What amazes me is we're spending billions, in terms of social and welfare programs. I'd just like to see them spend a small percent of 1 percent of that and put out a booklet called "How to Become Wealthy and Financially Independent in America." Just take the data published in their journals to explain, essentially, that people who accumulate wealth tend to own their own business, they tend to be frugal. They're savers. But I've never seen anybody in Washington ever say this, and I will apologize, Rush, if I'm wrong, but I've never seen the brochure coming out of Washington that tells people how to do this.

**Rush:** Well, you won't. In fact, you'll see just the opposite. You see too much of Washington tell people why they're forever going to be poor. They say, "You're going to be poor for the rest of your life because of these rich people." Now, did you find anywhere in your research that the wealthy in this country have gotten wealthy by stealing or otherwise doing it on the backs of the less fortunate?

**Stanley:** Absolutely not! These are people who made something out of nothing. They started their own business, a bowling alley chain or a dry

**"The government spends billions on social programs. I'd like to see them spend just a small percent of that to put out a booklet called 'How to Become Wealthy and Financially Independent in America.'"**

**— THOMAS J. STANLEY**



cleaner or a vegetable wholesale business and they did it the old-fashioned way. They did it with hard work and discipline, and they earned it.

And these people really do fear the government. In fact, their fear of the government and its lack of sensitivity to economic productivity is higher than their fear of cancer. That's pretty serious, Rush.

**Rush:** It doesn't surprise me at all.

**Stanley:** They are so efficient in how they live and how frugal they are, how much mileage they get out of a car, and then they see the government as a group of buffoons, in many respects, in terms of its inefficiency in collecting money and disbursing money and misunderstanding what the purpose of money is. These are people who know that you can't buy discipline by giving people things. And so these people are frightened of the deficit, and are concerned that the government really doesn't understand how to run a business. It is fascinating to me that there are so many liberal politicians that inherited their money.

**Rush:** There's a guilt complex associated with this, and the only way to salve it is to criticize people who have money and to treat them all as inheritors of wealth.

**Stanley:** I think that's true, Rush. But if, in fact, everybody inherited their wealth, if all the people who showed up on the Mayflower have all the money and everybody else is just working for them, I'd say fine. But people who believe that will never become wealthy. We've looked at the small groups that have done extremely well in this country — those with a very low probability of being on welfare and a very high probability of making six-figure incomes — these are Egyptians, Israelis, people from Iceland, Australia, and so on. They didn't come here with a whole lot of money. They came over here with a desire.

**Rush:** And it's still the case. The new arrivals have more of a concept and more ambition than people born here.

**Stanley:** Yes. That's a problem, especially the idea of being self-employed — although we did find people who work for other people, who have done extremely well. But again, the basic characteristics of the wealthy are discipline and frugality. Overall, 37 percent of millionaires buy used cars.

**Rush:** That just amazes me. But I think "millionaire" is a term that constantly needs to be defined within the context of this discussion. For example, when Clinton was discussing raising taxes, having a 10 percent surcharge on millionaires, Al Gore defined them as people who make \$250,000 a year ... for four consecutive years.

**Stanley:** Right. [laughter]

**Rush:** But you're defining millionaire here as assets, not income.

**Stanley:** Yes. Net worth of \$1 million or more; that's the traditional definition. But I'm not sure politicians know what it means. I'm wondering if they know the difference between wealth and income. Of these married couples that are millionaire households, only 17 percent ever spent one day in a private school. Half of them didn't even get college tuition from their parents.

**Rush:** Well, they're us.

**Stanley:** Exactly! This is the land of opportunity, if people would just open up their eyes. I think it's embarrassing to some people to realize how many millionaires were the B and C students, who don't have a masters degree, but who started a little business, and now live in a nice little home, buying their suits at Penney's or Sears — which is the No. 1 credit card other than Mastercard and VISA. Sears, for millionaires. These are people with good traditional values.

**Rush:** But one thing I've learned about the wealthy is that there are different groups of the wealthy. The "old money" people disrespect the

"new money." The "old money" people are the generations of heirs of the original barons like the Vanderbilts. The Hersheys. These are the guys who grew up and cashed the check. They've never worked a day in their lives. They've sipped cocktails on the croquet field in the afternoon. That's the old money from back in the gilded days. Anybody who busted their fingernails and earned their money, was frowned upon. And it is still true today, in a way, if you earn too much. I get it all the time. Like a caller I had from Nacogdoches, Texas: "You don't understand what it's like to be an American anymore." I asked, "Why?" and the answer was: "Because you can pay your light bill." That's why I think your book is key. I think this needs to become a national tsunami.

**Stanley:** Well, I hope so. It was a labor of love. We interviewed millionaires in New York, in Chicago, in Dallas, in L.A., in Tulsa. And a guy in Tulsa who's got a welding contracting company is no different in his attitudes than an apparel manufacturer in New York City. These are the same people. They have traditional values. They believe in God. They live frugally and they're very self-sufficient. They have a

strong self-concept and don't have to have a lot of the things other people think are important.

**Rush:** What was the most surprising fact you gleaned about millionaires?

**Stanley:** The fact that so many millionaires, 80 percent, were self-made. We found a study published in a New York City newspaper in the late 1800s. There were only 4,000 or so millionaires at the time, and in the 1890s, 83 percent of the millionaires were first generation. It is still true.

Also, this is a traditional crowd. You can talk about alternative lifestyles and all the trends in America, but 95 percent of millionaires are married couples, most with children.

In addition, when we started to look at country of origin, we saw that it is not necessary to be part of the good-old-boy network, to be Protestant, to be white with blue eyes. You know, the Nordic myth. So many people from Eastern Europe and from other countries have done extremely well in this country.

**Rush:** What percentage of these millionaires next door were doctors and lawyers?

**Stanley:** They're a minority, actually. When you get to the higher income groups, you find that the professions have a lower propensity to accumulate wealth. They spend more time in college. They have a higher propensity to consume. They live in the better neighborhoods. So, it is not unlikely that among the lowest accumulators of wealth in a so-called "nice neighborhood" are the professionals.

**Rush:** So, most people would be stunned to learn who among their neighbors have assets in the net worth of over a million bucks.

**Stanley:** Absolutely. In fact, it's probably the guy in the neighborhood who's the port-a-john distributor. I'm serious. A scrap metal dealer. The guy who fixes propellers on tug boats. The people who started working when they were 18, 20 years old, who went to night school, or might have taken a correspondence course, got married early. Paid off the mortgage, bought the house before the neighborhood was an expensive one. In fact, a lot of people look down their nose at these folks. You know — they might drive the van home one night, and leave it in the driveway. The neighbors aren't impressed.

**Rush:** But we are. Thanks, doctor, for all your work, because this is the kind of information that could lift the economic prospects of individuals in this country more than any government policy.

**Stanley:** I appreciate that, Rush. And I think what you're doing for the country is amazing. You've got a great deal of courage, which is the fundamental characteristic of all successful people. ■





**SPECIAL INSERT**

## *The Limbaugh Letter*



*How to Stay Prosperous & Free in the 21st Century*



From the beginning, Americans have asked: "Can this country survive?" We have understood instinctively that this nation is unique among nations in the long march of human history, and we worry that the qualities which have produced and sustained it may in fact be fragile, or fleeting, or corruptible. Indeed, as we careen into the next century, we seem to be at a crossroads. I know you're troubled, as am I, that so many things seem out of whack; the traditions and institutions that made America great are under attack, standards continue to be lowered, so many minds seem clouded by the fog of liberalism.

So as we periodically catalog our blessings: the personal freedoms we yet enjoy; the widespread prosperity and bounty unimaginable in any other time and place; the innovations and progress in medicine, technology, communication, science, business, and more; the standard of living never before attained by so many among a nation's citizens ... we wonder, Will it last? We ponder whether, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, it "can long endure."

The Founding Fathers fretted constantly about this; indeed, it can be argued that the question was at the root of their every debate, their every policy decision, their every impassioned speech. Whenever quill was put to parchment, or whenever type was set for a press to stamp out a political pamphlet, it was in search of the answer. How best to ensure the survival and flourishing of this new political compact, how best to ensure the survival and flourishing of a free people, how best to ensure that a nation "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" could indeed long endure, was their overarching mission ... before Lincoln and after.

The fact that there was great risk here, that freedom was perishable, that the ultimate outcome was an open question, was universally understood. Indeed, it was common to refer to the young republic as "the American Experiment." No one assumed anything about the end result. The experiment was, in effect, a gamble. In his first inaugural address, George Washington noted that "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the government are deeply, finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

This had never happened before, between any government and any people, in the history of the human race.

For well over 200 years, that trust has been validated; the faith has been kept. The great gamble of those great minds and hearts over two centuries ago, won by blood, has produced a nation that can boast the highest social, cultural, scientific, economic, military, and political achievements in human history. I'm sorry if this statement offends you, or rubs you the wrong way. It happens to be true. Though it is not politically correct, and thus is prohibited from being taught in any modern American classroom, the fact remains that the United States is the greatest country in the history of civilization. There is no virtue, there is no nobility, there is no benefit, in hiding that truth from ourselves or the wide world.

Still, the questions remain. What will ensure that America continues? What will warranty that liberty survives? Can our culture be reclaimed? How can we stay prosperous and free in the 21st century, and beyond?

**Constitution of the United States:** "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." — PREAMBLE

First, it must be understood that all the nation's accomplishments, the totality of American dominance, comes from a simple notion: that with freedom, ordinary people can do extraordinary things. It is freedom, not the government, that has produced widespread prosperity. It is the people, not the leaders, not the "powers that be," not the President, not the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, who determine their own success or failure. "We the people ... do ordain and establish." This is a new idea in the course of human events, and it is the American birthright. With individual freedom, the human spirit has soared. It has allowed Americans to reach the pinnacle of human achievement in every field.

Why else would millions from around the world flock to our shores, clamoring to get in? No other country on earth has been dedicated to this fundamental human principle: the right of each citizen to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

While people of other countries have been restricted by repression or rigid class systems, in America every man and woman is guaranteed the freedom to pursue prosperity, bounded only by the limits of his or her imagination.

Besides, only a conservative would ask how we can *stay* prosperous and free in the 21st century. A liberal would whine that only a few are prosperous — the eeevil rich who have somehow gotten rich off the backs of the poor. And freedom! Liberals don't notice it. They see victims; the oppressed, the downtrodden, the anxious, the have-nots, and those punished by "life's lottery." All of whom need liberals to save them from America.

It is true, of course, that not all Americans have yet learned how to access opportunity in this country. But we cannot allow liberals to succeed in their attempts to convince folks that opportunity doesn't exist. At the cusp of the 21st century, we must passionately uphold and demonstrate the profound original idea of self-government and self-reliance, as compelling today as it was two centuries ago. We are still a very young country, whose citizens yet demonstrate the living wisdom of our Founding Fathers.

**Thomas Jefferson:** "A wise and frugal government ... shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned." — FROM HIS FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (1801)

In the late 1970s Patricia Billings, an amateur sculptor from Leawood, Kansas, worked for four months on a plaster sculpture, then accidentally broke it. Upset at losing the fruit of so much effort, she searched for a material that was more durable. When she couldn't find one, she decided to make her own.

For years she researched obscure journals to find out how Renaissance artists made frescoes lasting hundreds of years. She discovered that they had added a cement-like material to gypsum, and she spent more years trying to perfect the method. She didn't have a degree in chemistry — she didn't even have a college degree — but she relied on her common sense and a lot of hard work. After 16 years experimenting with different combinations of chemicals in her basement, she discovered a cement-like, fireproof material that can withstand flames surpassing 2000 degrees F. She dubbed it GeoBond, which some now consider the successor to asbestos. Last year, two different firms offered Patricia Billings more than \$20 million for the company she founded.

Bill Powell of East Canton, Ohio, pursued another simple desire —





to play golf. But when golf clubs in the area turned him down for membership because he was black, he decided to design, build and own his own golf course. It took him over 20 years to realize his dream. His tenacity, he says, comes from his father, a railroad worker, and his mother, a cleaning lady, who raised six kids on meager wages.

Some would say that because Patricia Billings and Bill Powell have been successful, they should be taxed at a high rate. I disagree.

Millions of jobs are created by risk-taking entrepreneurs such as Billings and Powell. This has always been true in America. As Abraham Lincoln said: "The man who labored for another last year, this year labors for himself, and next year will hire others to labor for him."

Contrary to what liberals think, taxing entrepreneurs will not result in an increase in wealth to the poor. The American economy is not a zero-sum game — meaning that if Patricia or Bill have more, someone else will have less ... a smaller slice of the pie. No, with people like Patricia and Bill *creating* wealth, there is a growing pie.

Every man and woman has the capacity, determination and will to accomplish great things. Prosperity is available to everybody if you know how to access it, how to be self-sufficient, how to escape government dependency. A start would be serious tax relief. The average American has to work 185 days to pay federal, state and local income taxes ... which, by any definition of the word, is immoral.

**John Adams:** "Let us cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge ... to read, think, speak and write."  
— DISSERTATION (1765)

Michael Johnson, principal and founder of the Science Skills Center, a public high school in Brooklyn, had what can hardly be called a radical idea: he wanted to make sure that poor minority students from the inner city have the same skills to get into college as more affluent kids. Johnson knew that without the ability to master SATs or job interview skills, his students could never succeed, no matter how bright they were.

Since its opening three years ago, Science Skills has been wildly successful. The attendance rate is 94 percent, there have been no dropouts, and no incidents of violence. Most important, all of the students are passing the New York State Regents exams on core academic subjects like English and chemistry. Contrast that to the rest of the New York school system, where half of all freshmen fail to graduate in four years.

In just one year Billydee Flynn, son of a single mother on welfare, rose from the 26th percentile on the citywide reading test to the 85th. Johnson also arranged for Flynn to intern with an orthopedic surgeon last summer. Many of the Science Skills students say they are relieved that they no longer have to hide the fact that they're smart, as they did in their old schools. Now they can achieve with pride.

So is Johnson a hero with the educational establishment? Has he been praised for the intense academic climate he has fostered at Science Skills? Think again. The New York City representative of the United Federation of Teachers says, "I'm not a big fan of Mr.

Johnson's. I don't think he's going in the right direction." That's because to liberals, the only thing that matters is the *way* students learn, not *what* they learn. To them, standardized tests like the SATs are "backward." They prefer "compilations" of a student's work that are graded individually without national standards or norms.

Though Johnson is completely unswayed by their criticisms, they sniff that his emphasis on school discipline is "repressive and reactionary."

A similar response befell Bethlehem, Penn., school superintendent Thomas J. Doluisio. He couldn't figure out why the Hispanic students in his school district were lagging behind other students in test scores and reading. His bilingual education "experts" had assured him that the district's expensive Spanish-language classes were the best way to help Hispanic children adjust to English language classes.

Then Doluisio discovered what was wrong: it was taking an average of *seven* years for an Hispanic student to move into regular English classes. Students in kindergarten classes — regarded the best age to learn language skills — didn't hear a word of English all day. Doluisio got angry, then he found a solution.

After a bitter debate that pitted educators and "Latino activists" against supporters of Doluisio, Hispanic students in Bethlehem are now immersed in English-speaking classrooms. After only one year, teachers who opposed Doluisio's immersion program are starting to come around. More importantly, the parents of the Hispanic students are thrilled: a recent survey showed that 81 percent said their children had "progressed well academically" in the new classes.

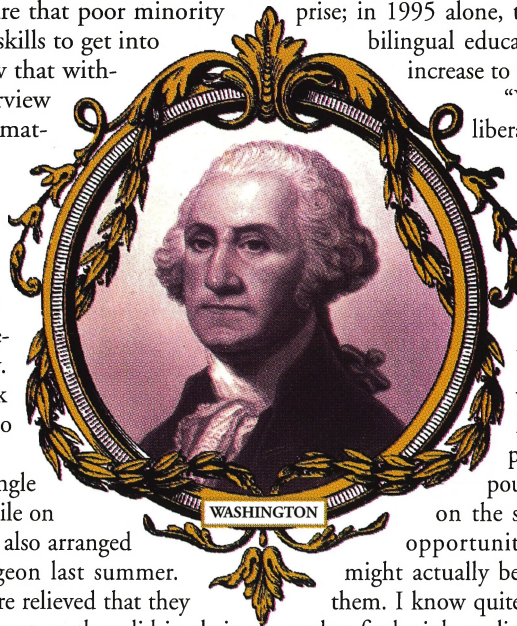
One who approves is Margarita Rivas from Puerto Rico, whose four children are not only excelling in the English-immersion setting, but are helping her and her husband to improve their English.

For his efforts, Doluisio was officially condemned at the 1994 convention of the National Association for Bilingual Education. (No surprise; in 1995 alone, the federal government spent \$206 million on bilingual education, an amount that Bill Clinton wanted to increase to \$300 million.)

"We need more money" is all you'll hear from liberals when parents complain about the standard education most public school students are receiving. But what has more and more money produced to date? Educators using schools as social laboratories to test pet theories on unproven educational methods. Passing out free condoms. Multi-course propaganda by environmental wackos.

Which is why the biggest challenge is to wrest control away from the educational establishment. The best way to do that is to allow parents to take the thousands of dollars they pour into the public school system and spend it on the school of their choice ... to give all kids the opportunity to make it in the next century. Then we might actually be able to do something really radical: educate them. I know quite a few employers who would be thrilled to no end to find a job applicant from an American classroom with the ability "to read, think, speak and write."

**George Washington:** "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." — FIRST ADDRESS TO CONGRESS (1790)





In the 1980s, I thought this lesson had been learned. After Jimmy Carter's foreign policy fiascos, Ronald Reagan rebuilt the American military, which directly contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Empire. The message was obvious: a strong America means a safer world. It won us the Cold War.

But a few short years later, we again see America saddled with an inconsistent and incoherent foreign policy. From Haiti to North Korea to Somalia to Ireland to Bosnia, Clinton's team has ad-hocced his way through one crisis after another, squandering American prestige and leaving confusion in its wake. Apparently played solely as a card to influence domestic politics — and perhaps even in the service of raising funds for the Democratic Party — the Administration's attention to foreign policy has been, shall we say, intermittent. (Perhaps the President's interest would be piqued if people started using the term "foreign affairs"...)

While the demise of the Soviet Union eliminated the greatest immediate threat to American strength, it is unwise for the U.S. to be missing in action for long. This is, as I've so often said, still a dangerous world. (This Administration has consistently underestimated the nuclear threat in countries like Iraq and North Korea.) Even loony tinpot dictators can pose a genuine threat if they aren't watched vigilantly and kept in line. During this time of relative calm in the world, it would behoove us to restore some of the over \$120 billion in cuts to the military made by Clinton and to strengthen our missile defense system.

We also need to make intelligence a priority again. Weak surveillance has led to several avoidable disasters, including the June 1996 truck bombing in Dhahran which killed 19 soldiers. All of these things, of course, stem from *leadership* — a role America cannot relinquish.

**Abraham Lincoln:** "Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us." — SPEECH (1858)

I'm always struck by how easily and often the Founders credited the Almighty for America's success. The imperative of a moral, virtuous society was universally understood and accepted ... unlike today, when no one dares talk about morality and virtue for fear of being called "judgmental." Anyone who mentions God (unless it's a liberal Democrat campaigning in a black church) is immediately labeled — oh, no — an extremist. A member of the dread "religious right." Intolerant. Narrow-minded. A hatemonger.

Despite that, and despite the fact that the mainstream media has been tirelessly and relentlessly declaring the death of "character" as a legitimate subject for public discussion, the ultimate survival of America's freedom and prosperity utterly depends upon our willingness to reclaim the religious language of the Founders.

I am not talking about proselytizing; I am not talking about particular doctrines or religious dogma. I am talking about the explicit, verbal acknowledgment of the nation's dependence upon the guidance of the Supreme Being as part of our national conversation ... and the explicit, verbal acknowledgment of the necessity of a moral and virtuous citizenry.

Which is why I am delighted that so many of us have rediscovered the Founding documents, and the writings of men like Washington,

Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Lincoln, and others. This rediscovery and reacquaintance cannot help but reintroduce into our culture the moral sense of those wise men, and their understanding that national gratitude to the Creator is the root and source of America's strength.

**Declaration of Independence:** "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." — ADOPTED JULY 4, 1776

You're not going to find the Founding Fathers espousing the value of strong families, because there wasn't any dispute about it back then. (They didn't spend a lot of time talking about the importance of breathing, either — who would argue?) It was utterly taken for granted that families were not only the cornerstone of our society — without them, there was no society. But the stirring phrase "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" is an umbrella reference to the activities of life, including family life.

That the basis of prosperity and freedom in the United States can be found in the family is seen most vividly with newcomers to our shores. As a nation of people from all over the globe, it is the immigrant story that can inspire us to rediscover what makes America unique.

Thuc and Thahn Dinh fled war-ravaged Vietnam for America 21 years ago with little more than hope for a better life for their small children. Grateful to get whatever jobs they could, they worked opposite shifts so one of them could always be home with the children. Thuc, who had been a journalist in Vietnam, parked cars. Thahn, once a

teacher of literature, worked in a cafeteria. Eventually, they moved up to better jobs, and they continued to work hard to give their children a first-rate education.

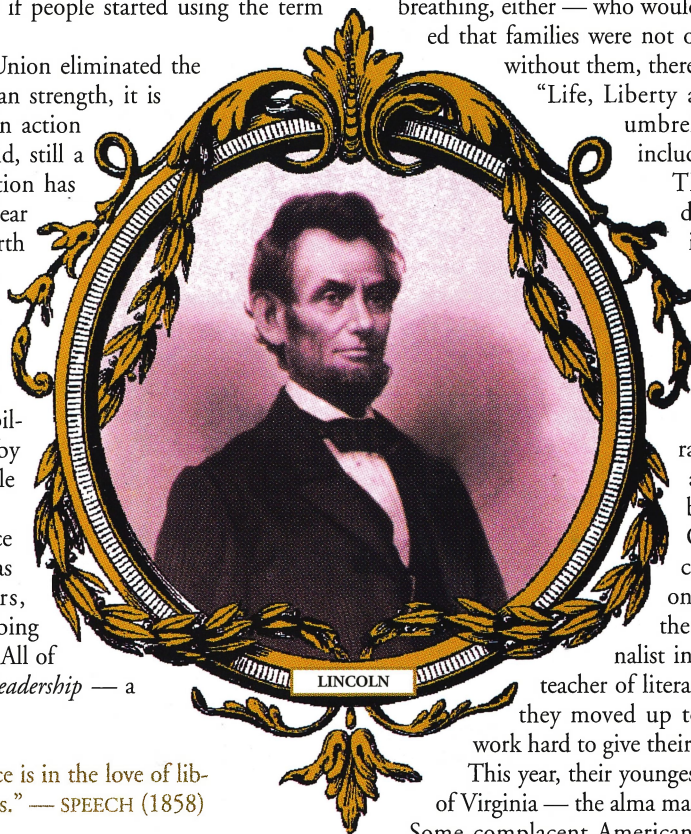
This year, their youngest, Thuy, graduates from the University of Virginia — the alma mater of his two brothers and three sisters. Some complacent Americans may have lost sight of the nation's great gifts, but freedom-loving families like the Dinhs remind us of America's limitless opportunities.

**Abraham Lincoln:** "That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." — GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, NOV. 19, 1863

It falls to every generation, as it falls to ours, to rediscover the promise of America — what it demands of us, and what it bestows. More than 130 years after Lincoln's address, government of the people, by the people, for the people has not yet perished from the earth. The fallen soldiers at Gettysburg did not die in vain.

But the question, Can it long endure? has not received its final answer, by any means. We must highly resolve for our time, that this nation, under God, shall have yet a new birth of freedom.

How will America stay prosperous and free in the 21st century? It depends on you. On your talents, your muscle, your heart, and your dreams. ■





# CELEBRATING AMERICAN ACHIEVERS

Dick Morris, former political consultant for the Clinton campaign and renowned toe-sucker, was greeted as the new "comeback kid" in newspapers across the fruited plain last month. The occasion was the latest chapter in his self-directed national program to spin himself a new reputation. Clearly unencumbered by shame or a sense of public disgrace, Morris stood before a "Power and Politics in America" class at New York University and began to ... lecture. Accompanied, naturally, by a P.R. consultant and an invited television crew.

Morris summarized for the class the essence of his profession, political consulting: "It basically requires the ability of an academic and the canniness of a drug pusher. You want to get [your candidates] hooked on your [advice.] You want to get them dependent on you."

That said, Morris went on to actually describe for the class "how he advised Mr. Clinton to urge the nation to embrace ethics classes to teach virtues to students," according to *The New York Times*. This from a guy who, in the wake of tabloid revelations about his \$200-an-hour call girl and scandal-provoked resignation, got a \$2.5

million book deal.

Coming soon to a bestseller list near you is Morris's literary masterwork, *Behind the Oval Office: Winning the Presidency in the 90s*. That title (surprise, surprise), was the result of a poll Morris did to test-market 21 possible choices. (There is *no* truth to the rumor that the runner-up was: "I Only Did to Her What My Boss Is Doing to the Country.")

On the same day Dick's new professorial image, blackboard behind him and all, was splashed across the nation's newspapers,

who also emerged to share front-page billing? Why, none other than Our Lady of Perpetual Publicity. Right next to Dick we got Madonna, single parent and Evita wannabe, as Primal Maternal Girl, with this headline: "BREAKTHROUGH ROLES: MOTHER, SERIOUS ACTOR." Gushes the *USA Today* profile: "She is girlishly sexy, wearing tall boots, a short skirt, a sheer violet blouse and no makeup. Her blond-again hair is wet from the shower. Seven weeks after the delivery, she's trim again, save for a slightly bulging tummy." This

in a front page news story, folks. "Relaxed and upbeat, Madonna waxes rhapsodic on her career and motherhood..."

Turn on the television, read the papers, and what do you find? You see everywhere celebrated the raunchy, the debauched, the dissolute, the depraved. The notorious have become notable. Infamy is chic.

It's enough to give society a bad name.

Of course, none of this, by itself, is new. There have always been scoundrels. Power has always attracted the unscrupulous and the nefarious. The ignoble antics of self-absorbed Hollywood types have always been headline fodder. The difference is, those headlines were once relegated to gossip col-

## Test Your Economic IQ

- 1 What share of total national income is earned by the richest one percent of Americans?  
a) 1% of total      b) 15% of total  
c) 25% of total      d) 50% of total
- 2 What share of total federal income taxes is paid by the richest one percent of Americans?  
a) 0.8%      b) 1.8%  
c) 8%      d) 28%
- 3 A family living at the poverty level in the United States has a higher income than the median family income in:  
a) zero countries      b) 50 countries  
c) 100 countries      d) 150 countries
- 4 A family in the poorest 20% of income in 1979 was more likely to have moved all the way up to the richest 20% by 1988 than to still be poor.  
a) True      b) False
- 5 Out of all the tax filers with capital gains income in 1993, the percentage that had incomes of \$50,000 or less was:  
a) less than 5%      b) 10%  
c) 20%      d) more than 50%
- 6 Out of all the tax filers with capital gains incomes, what percentage have incomes of more than \$100,000?  
a) less than 20%      b) 40%  
c) 60%      d) more than 80%
- 7 The average senior citizen today will receive how much more in lifetime Social Security and Medicare benefits than they and their employers paid into the system and the interest on those payments?  
a) \$25,000 more      b) \$50,000 more  
c) \$100,000 more      d) \$250,000 more
- 8 If the federal government confiscated every penny earned each year by Michael Jordan, Madonna, Bill Gates, and every other millionaire in the United States, this would raise enough money to run the federal government for:  
a) 60 years      b) 6 years  
c) 6 months      d) 6 weeks
- 9 If the federal government confiscated the net earnings of all the Fortune 500 companies, this would raise enough money to operate the federal government for:  
a) two months      b) one year  
c) two years      d) five years
- 10 From 1980 to 1990, when income tax rates fell from 70% to 28%, total federal tax receipts:  
a) fell by 10%      b) stayed constant  
c) grew by 10%      d) grew by 100%

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umns and tabloids — and understood to be unsuitable for polite company. (Quaint concept, polite company.) Also, the behavior that produced those headlines once upon a time would end careers, not spawn book deals, glowing newspa-

more of you find yourself at that same point. You've done to the best of your ability, to the maximum of your power, everything you can to live your lives the way you think they should be lived. You've played by the rules. You've tried to do the

wagon. They appear to be having a grand old jolly time. And they're doing it on our backs." You're fed up with it. And you're saying that all your sacrifices, all your struggles, all your strain and hard work, haven't been worth it.

"My husband is successful in his field," said Deanne, "but he's working harder and harder for less. We've passed propositions here in California that end up in the courts. It's like: 'Forget it, voters.' I educate myself. I'm an informed voter. I am intelligent. Yet we are being screwed every which way. And we've had it."


Believe me, I know. I know there are a lot of people out there like Deanne, and like you. Millions of them listen to my radio program. I know the frustrations. The fact that Clinton got back in, the fact that people don't care — instead of being angry and wanting to fight for what's right anymore, it has made you depressed and discouraged.

Deanne said she'd like to live in a trailer on some rural piece of property, "and then they can't get us. We'd live our life. Enjoy watching the flowers. Why should my husband go work so hard just for everyone to take it?"

There are millions of Americans who feel this way. And I'm one of them. There is nobody who is more frustrated over the fact, as I've been saying the past few weeks, that the truth doesn't matter. I'm as discouraged as you are in quiet moments of reflection, over why certain things that matter to me — and I think that they are crucial, fundamental things — don't seem to matter to other people. And I struggle with it, too. But I also want to say this to you.

I firmly believe that the salvation of this country, and the solution to the nation's problems, are only possible if people like you continue to work to right the things that are wrong and don't cave in to these temptations to give up. They are temptations, and they must be resisted. Because if people like you decide that it's not worth it, then there is another family that has surrendered to the decline of our culture, and the decline gains.

You've played by the rules all your lives. You've never broken a law. Your kids don't do drugs. If your kids do do drugs, there's hell to pay. You don't shirk the responsibilities of life, and yet when you look around, you see those who do shirk those responsibilities, you see those who do break the rules, getting away with it. And you see all the outrageous figures in this celebrity-



**Your  
achievements are  
quiet ones, undramatic,  
and many known only to  
God. Yet it is you who  
provide the foundation  
upon which America's  
future rests.**

per profiles, and starring movie roles.

So many Americans sense it now, that something is amiss in our culture. Truth doesn't seem to matter. Freeloaders everywhere flout the rules of society without consequence. Leeches prosper. The irresponsible flourish. And those who hold the fabric of society together are blamed.

Which is why so many of you responded when the recent caller to my program, Deanne from California, told me she was just about ready to give up. "My husband and I have had it, Rush," she said. "I am figuring out how we can cash in and drop out." She wanted to be in the wagon, instead of pulling it.

Deanne's call struck a nerve because more and

best for yourselves and your kids. You have observed the traditions and institutions that made the country great. You've believed in them. You've said: "We're going to follow the path that we've been taught is the correct route to take — not only for success, but for goodness and righteousness."

And all around you, you see that the people who are not doing so are being rewarded. You're simply saying: "What's it worth? We haven't gotten there. We have not reached our expectations. Instead, everything we've worked for is being taken from us, little by little, to give to people who are in the

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*Many people say I need to be balanced with equal time. Not so — I AM...*

# Equal Time

A sampling of my genius, to be widely quoted and disseminated

## WASTE NOT ... OR ELSE

In a holiday radio address, President Clinton complained that too much food goes to waste in restaurants, cafeterias, and grocery stores. And he's not going to stand for it any more. The President said: "Today, we are taking two more steps to fight hunger. First, I am directing every department and agency in our Administration to actively work to promote food recovery and distribution. From now on, all federal agencies will recover surplus food from their cafeterias, public events, and other food-service facilities; and they'll work with government contractors, state and local governments, and private business to encourage all citizens to do the same."

Apparently, there is rampant starvation in America, which can only be solved if you stop wasting so much food. So keep a sharp eye on your kitchen. You might find some government official poking through the canned

goods in your pantry, or nosing around in your fridge, or rummaging through your garbage can ... trying to determine how much food you're wasting. After all, if they can tell you how much money you should have ... they can certainly tell you how much food you need. Eat up!

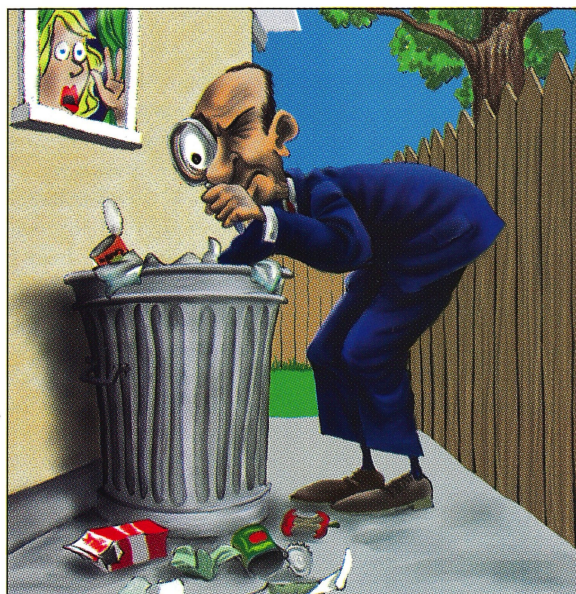


ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE SHELTON FOR THE LIMBAUGH LETTER

## HARASSER'S DEFENSE

In the wake of the sex scandal at a Maryland military base, the Army set up a hotline for women with sexual misconduct complaints. Thousands of female soldiers called in. Obviously, there's a problem. And I have every confidence that the military brass will take all necessary steps to reestablish standards of proper behavior. In the meantime ... you know whose phones must also be ringing off the hook? Lawyers'. Think about it. In the coming months, hundreds of lawyers will be preparing to defend accused male soldiers. No doubt some Army Dream Team lawyer will come up with a "harasser's defense" to present to the military tribunal. One that sounds something like this:

"My client is a proud member of the

Army. He has served his country well. But as you well know, the Army is highly competitive. My client worked hard — harder than he ever had in his life — and studied the lay of the land in order to advance his career. He realized he had to please his superiors in every way possible. So ... he looked to the top. He scrutinized the actions of the Army's 'first officer.' And he concluded: If sexual harassment is good enough for the Commander-in-Chief, it's good enough for the troops. My client did what he did to please his boss. His leader. And above all, his role model — the President of the United States of America. For that reason, and that reason alone — you must find him not guilty. Or at least, delay this trial while he is on active duty."

## CARNAL KNOWLEDGE

Thanks to unrelenting liberal whining ... we now have a generation of American youths who are more informed than any other generation in our history about sex. Beginning in grade school, young people are taught when to use condoms, and the correct way to put on condoms. They are taught about "alternative lifestyles" — hetero-, homo-, bi- and transsexual; cross-gender, cross-dressing ... you name it; they know it.

Now we learn something else. According to the Institute of Medicine, sexually transmitted diseases in our country are at an all-time high. Twelve million cases a year. Three million cases among our highly sexually educated teenagers. In hopes of reversing this trend, the Institute is calling for a "fundamental change in American attitudes" toward sexuality. Sounds to me like they want another sexual revolution — to counter the consequences of the first sexual revolution ... which was bought and paid for by liberalism.

## POWER TO THE PARENTS

Last fall, high school teachers in Niles Township, near Chicago, went on strike, demanding higher salary increases. Niles parents noted that teacher salaries were already generous: \$36,000 to start, and more than \$80,000 for experienced instructors. So the parents decided to fight back. Harnessing public opinion, the parents — 1,000-strong — staged their own rally, demanding a settlement. Suddenly faced with this new phenome-

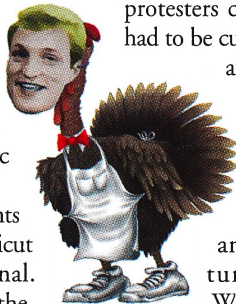
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## PROTEST SEASON

Wackos were busy on both coasts last month. In San Francisco, nine protesters, including actor Woody Harrelson, brought traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge to a standstill for almost five hours. The protesters scaled the bridge towers and hung banners calling for the government to protect a bunch of redwood trees in northern California. The feds were negotiating with timber groups to ban cutting on 7,500 acres; but these bozos wanted 60,000 acres declared off limits. All were arrested on trespassing and public nuisance charges and released.

On the east coast, four animal rights activists were arrested at a Connecticut event called the Turkey Invitational. Every year, area families who raise the



birds dress them up in celebrity look-alike costumes and have them run an obstacle course. Harmless stuff; the birds are not hurt. But that didn't stop activists like Pam Ferdin of the Animal Defense League, who was outraged that turkeys were "shamed into wearing costumes." She said it was "cruel" to "force these animals to do stupid things." So the protesters chained themselves to a car, and had to be cut free by firefighters in order to be arrested. Then they went on a jail-house hunger strike.

I hope Connecticut locals showed some compassion. I hope they stopped by the jail after their holiday meal — and offered these turkeys some turkey. Dressed, perhaps, as Woody Harrelson.

## X'ER EXERCISE

Stephen Bennett, a political science professor at the University of Cincinnati, has conducted a study of Generation X'ers and politics. The "X'ers," people between 18 and 30, view politicians as corrupt and self-serving ... not surprising, given the "distinguishing characteristics" of the politicians they have been exposed to. Less than a third of X'ers vote ... again, no surprise. Bennett blames the schools for failing to teach civics — which is largely absent from kindergarten through college. And, with the media's negative political coverage, Bennett says kids have no historical memory of a time when public officials were held in higher esteem. I would go even further. Far too many students graduate without a fundamental understanding of what made this country great. Or why the Founders opted for limited government; or why they were opposed to confiscatory taxes; or why they counted on a virtuous citizenry to ensure the continuation of individual freedom. If we got back to teaching those things ... we would never again have an election where the question is asked: Does character matter?

## NO UNDRRESS REDRESS

Not content with cable and pay-per-view TV, catered meals, fully equipped weight rooms, college scholarship programs and the rest ... those who inhabit our nation's luxurious penal institutions want more. They want their privacy. And so it was a sad day Dec. 2 when the Supreme Court refused to review a case that would have determined if prisoners have a constitutional right to ... modesty. Inmate Albert Johnson, a guest of the Cook County jail in Chicago, filed suit, annoyed that female guards were sometimes assigned to his suite. Johnson said this meant they



periodically saw him and other convicts in a state of undress ... while showering or using the toilet facilities. His "personal privacy" was thus violated. A federal judge, while recognizing that prisoners have "legitimate privacy interests," said such viewing was incidental and inadvertent and dismissed the case. Last year the Court of Appeals upheld the ruling. Now, with the Supreme Court refusing to hear the case, the poor prisoners have no redress. They're left out in the cold. So, Mr. Johnson, sir: Next time a female guard sees you in the shower ... keep it to yourself. To the courts, it's no big deal.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIKE SHELTON FOR THE LIMAUGH LETTER

non — organized parents — the teachers caved. Jim Dougherty, president of the North Suburban Teachers Union, admits that without the parents, "the strike would have gone on for another month." After reaching a quick compromise, the teachers are now back where they belong: in class. And so are the students. All in all, a good lesson, I would say, on how to handle unions.

## VOTERS 1, POLLSTERS 0

Well, it finally happened. The pollsters — those who earned their daily bread taking your pulse on a minute-by-minute basis during the 1996 campaign — polled themselves ... on their opinion of you. They decided that you failed them. Miserably.

Murray Edelman, editorial director of Voter News Service, complains that lots of you won't play the game: "We have nonresponse. This is a major issue in every survey," he says. He went back and looked at the New Hampshire Senate race, and decided that nothing his group did was wrong. Their polling methods were perfect; they did everything by the book. Only one problem: they projected that the Democrat won. In the actual election, the Republican won. Real voters repudiated his poll. So naturally, he blamed Republicans, saying they must have refused to cooperate at a higher rate. "I find that a real cop-out," said Edelman, about Republicans.

Pollsters are still looking for a reason the Presidential election turned out to be an 8-point spread, not the 18 percent race many pollsters predicted. (The ugly truth is, only a quarter of the final national polls came within 3 points of the actual results.) How could they have been so wrong? How could their surveys have missed by such wide margins? In a survey of themselves, with a margin of error of plus or minus 0 percentage points, they found their scapegoat: you. ■



# CELEBRATING AMERICAN ACHIEVERS

Continued from page 12

driven society being praised. Money flows to these people left and right; stardom, riches. And you just say, "My God, there's no justice in it."

But I firmly believe that the future of America depends on you, the true American achievers. It's people like you, playing by the rules and celebrating and continuing to remind people of the traditions and institutions that made this country great,

who can re-create a society that is great once more. It's only through your quiet achievement in the daily hard work of doing good and doing right that this country is going to fix itself and survive.

We're all in the same boat here. We're laughed at. We're looked at as the oddballs and weirdos and the problems in this country. The mainstream media makes fun of the things you and I believe in. They call us sexist, racist, bigots, homophobes. They call us hatemongers.

This is a crucial time in this country, a crossroads. We've got a person sitting in the highest office of the land who it seems has disgraced that office like few before him. Yet so many seem not to care. It seems that the cynical and the corrupt continue to come up with political strate-

gies that prevail with the people who don't care enough to pay attention, so they get swayed by it. And you look around, and you say, "Nothing's right. The people vote, and some judge comes along and says it doesn't count." A judge says, "You want to look at people without discriminating on the basis of their skin color? Why, that's unconstitutional." And you throw up your hands.

**A**ll this makes it easy to look around and say, "My gosh, I'm just going to go someplace where I can insulate myself from this nonsense and enjoy my life as best as possible." Believe me, you're not alone. There are millions of people who feel the same frustrations — you just never hear about them, because the press doesn't cover them.

The press doesn't write stories about who you are. When they do take note of you, they write features about how narrow-minded, or dangerous, or naive you are. You are the ones blamed, castigated and vilified. Don't listen to the naysayers. Don't pay attention to them. Stick to your dreams and your standards. Throughout this nation's history, it is those who follow freedom's principles who have always prevailed. And you will now, as well.

It is people like you who make the country work. I use this phrase a great deal, and I don't throw it around cavalierly, or just to sound clever. People who make the country work do so in anonymity. You work hard every day, raise your children to be moral against incredible odds, help your neighbors, shoulder your community responsibilities. You behave ethically, and do the daily work of democracy. You keep your word.

There will be no newspaper headlines for you. Your achievements are quiet ones, undramatic, and many known only to God. Yet it is you who ensure an orderly society; it is you who provide the stability and foundation upon which America's future rests. This is why I take this opportunity to celebrate you, the true American achievers. Mine is a celebration of the noble, the honorable, the good, the principled. You are the nation's greatest hope. You are the nation's greatest strength.



**To subscribe,** call 1-800-457-4141  
Happy New Year ... in the spirit of  
bipartisanship, of course.

## Answers to quiz on page 11

- 1 b) 15% of total. The richest one percent of households earn roughly one-seventh of the total income. Incidentally, contrary to popular myth, the middle class is not shrinking. In 1993 the middle 60% had 50% of the income; in 1930 it was 42%.
- 2 d) 28%. It's a popular myth that the rich don't pay their "fair" share of taxes. They earn 15% of the income and pay 28% of the income taxes. By contrast, the bottom 50% bear just 7% of the federal income tax burden.
- 3 d) 150 countries. The U.S. poverty level for a one-person household in 1994 was \$7,750. This was higher than the per capita income in all Third World countries and even in many non-poor countries, including Greece, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, South Africa, Venezuela, and Thailand. More than two-thirds of the people on earth live in nations with lower average incomes than the U.S. poverty level.
- 4 True. There is significant income mobility in the U.S. — with Americans moving up and down the income ladder. Of the families that were poor in 1978, only 14% were still poor ten years later. Fully 15% of the poor families in 1978 were in the richest fifth of income ten years later.
- 5 d) more than 50%. Not only the rich have capital gains. About 55% of the tax returns with capital gains in 1993 were for Americans with incomes of less than \$50,000.
- 6 a) Less than 20%. Only 18% of tax returns with capital gains were for Americans with incomes above \$100,000.
- 7 d) \$250,000 more. The lifetime benefits are roughly a quarter million dollars higher per recipient than the payroll tax payments and the interest earned on those payments. Thus these should not be called "entitlements"; by any moral and philosophical measure, people are not "entitled" to money they did not earn.
- 8 d) six weeks. Soaking the rich won't balance the budget. Millionaires earn less than 4% of all taxable earnings in the U.S. In 1992 there were just 55,000 millionaires in the U.S. — or only 0.05% of all tax filers. Outside of Hollywood, the NBA, and the Clinton Cabinet, there just aren't that many millionaires in the U.S. to tax.
- 9 a) two months. In 1995 the total profits of the Fortune 55 companies were \$244 billion. If all of this were confiscated by the federal government, it would provide enough revenue to operate the government for 58 days.
- 10 d) grew by 100%. In 1980 federal tax revenues were \$517 billion. By 1990, after two income tax rate reductions, federal revenues had climbed to \$1,031 billion.

**KEY**

7-10 correct: greedy extremist  
4-6 correct: member of the  
Clinton economic team  
fewer than 4 correct: journalist

*I am indebted to Steve Moore, Director of Fiscal Policy Studies at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. for this trenchant economic information.*



# TARGET: KENNETH STARR

It is certainly an entertaining sideshow. Washington has been abuzz ever since Democratic strategist James ("Where's my gumbo?") Carville announced that he was organizing to discredit independent counsel Ken Starr. By forming the noble-sounding "Education and Information Project," Carville said he wanted to tell the American people how "pawtisan" Starr is. So claims the Ragin' Cajun himself, political hatchet man extraordinaire, James Carville, about the mild-mannered career prosecutor whose investigation has so far garnered 11 guilty pleas and convictions.

"I've looked in this guy's face. This guy's a right-wing partisan," snarled Carville. "We're going to take out newspaper ads, we're going to raise money, it's going to be a full-fledged thing, we're going to start recruiting young people on campuses."

When the press asked why the President didn't stop him from criticizing Starr, White House spokesman Mike McCurry declared: "He's not in a position to dissuade Mr. Carville from pursuing the course that Mr. Carville has decided on." This was too much for reporters: "Even if the President asked him to stop? Are you serious?" McCurry: "I am serious,

yes." One reporter snapped: "He's the President of the United States." McCurry snapped back: "Well, Mr. Carville, the most prominent political consultant in America, has made it clear that's what he's going to do." Later, when asked if he would talk to Carville about it, a hoarse Clinton answered with a flat "No." The truth is, folks, though James Carville has succeeded in making himself the story, this is not his fight. Make no mistake: this is President Clinton's campaign against Kenneth Starr. (Clinton himself has said it is "obvious" Starr is out to get him and his wife.) Carville told *USA Today* what it would take for him to end his anti-Starr crusade: "The President just has to raise his eyebrows." At this writing, Carville has backed off a bit, but it is clear no eyebrows have been raised. So the question remains: **What is Bill Clinton afraid of?**

